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PRESS RELEASE

Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart

Invalidenstraße 50/51, 10557 Berlin, Germany

Tue, Wed, Fri 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Thu 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sat + Sun 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Museum in Motion. A Collection for the 21st Century

6 September 2024

A collection presentation of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

Opening: Thursday, 5 September 2024, 7 p.m.

The collection presentation "Museum in Motion. A Collection for the 21st Century," part of the reopening of the Rieckhallen, showcases ten large-scale works from the past 25 years, including several new acquisitions being presented to the public for the first time. These works raise questions about the future of a museum for contemporary art. A focal point of the Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart is large-scale sculptures, installations, and media art. Thanks to the permanent preservation of the Rieckhallen in 2022, these works can continue to be exhibited in the unique spaces and supplemented by new acquisitions. Among the exhibited works are sculptural installations by **Elmgreen & Dragset**, **Cevdet Erek**, **Anne Imhof**, **Jasmin Werner**, and **David Zink Yi**, photographic works by **Elmgreen & Dragset**, **Manaf Halbouni**, and **Ricarda Roggan**, as well as light and media art by **Maurizio Nannucci** and **Jeremy Shaw**.

"Museum in Motion" presents large-scale installations, sculptures, and photo series from the Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart collection, and as part of a newly established long-term strategic partnership, works from the Bundeskunstsammlung (Federal Art Collection). The works address the evolving role of museums for contemporary art and pose the question of how museums must adapt to the challenges of the present and future.

The exhibition title itself suggests that museums are dynamic institutions that continually evolve. In a changing society, art also transforms, reflecting the close connection between artists, museums, and their environment. A museum for contemporary art is an integral part of society, promoting cultural production and constantly adapting to technological advancements and demographic changes. With this collection presentation, Hamburger Bahnhof looks to the future to actively meet these challenges.

The presentation begins with the sculpture "Protruding Gallery / Powerless Structures, Fig. 223" (2024) by **Elmgreen & Dragset**. This work depicts an art space either rising from or sinking into the ground. In the series "Deutsche Museen" (German Museums) (2025), the artist duo also questions spatial structures and the institution of the museum.

Cultural historical references and the question of the changing significance of artworks and objects preserved in museums are addressed in "Bergama Stereo – Berlin Fragment" (2019–2024) by **Cevdet Erek** and

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PRESS – COMMUNICATION – SPONSORS

Stauffenbergstraße 41
10785 Berlin

MECHTILD KRONENBERG
HEAD OF DIVISION

FIONA GEUSS
PRESS OFFICER NATIONALGALERIE

Tel: +49 30 3978 34 16
Mobile: +49 151 527 51 565

presse@smb.spk-berlin.de
www.smb.museum/presse



"Apokryphen" (since 2013) by **Ricarda Roggan**. **Manaf Halbouni's** work "Go Home" (2019) explores how a museum can function as an open house for an increasingly diverse society and which artists find a place in its collection.

David Zink Yi's work "Neusilber" (New Silver) (2009) could not be made from the titular material, highlighting the inadequacy of museum categorization and hierarchies in representing the complex world. **Maurizio Nannucci's** neon tube works "Idea" and "Time" (both 1997) address parameters for the conception and production of artworks. As the production of neon tubes is discontinued for environmental reasons, museums face the challenge of developing new technologies to preserve these works for future generations.

Anne Imhof's sculpture "Room IV" (2021) challenges the museum to present both the past and the present of the work, which was originally part of a performance setting. **Jasmin Werner's** ensemble, consisting of four sculptures and three staircase models, combines industrial and architectural symbols with art historical references, emphasizing the cyclical nature of the creative process and art history as preserved by museums.

The presentation concludes with **Jeremy Shaw's** large-scale video and sound installation "Phase Shifting Index" (2020). On seven screens, protagonists from fictional subcultures engage in ritual, dance-like movements, eventually merging into a collective ecstatic experience. Just as Shaw's works depict a changed state of consciousness, museums can be places where visitors' perceptions are expanded.

New Acquisitions

The collection presentation features new acquisitions by Cevdet Erek, Elmgreen & Dragset, and Anne Imhof, made possible through the support of the **Friends of the National Gallery** and generous patrons, as well as the newly established **Hamburger Bahnhof International Companions**. Additionally, Jeremy Shaw's video installation will be acquired for the collection on the occasion of this presentation.

With these and other acquisitions and donations, as seen in the current collection presentation "National Gallery. A Collection for the 21st Century," Hamburger Bahnhof fulfills its mission to collect contemporary art and further develop the National Gallery's collection. The National Gallery's collection was founded in 1861 through a donation by consul and banker Joachim Heinrich Wilhelm Wagener, who bequeathed his holdings of contemporary 19th-century art to the Prussian state. Since its inception, the collection has been committed to contemporary art and has been expanded from generation to generation. Each new work added to the collection alters and enriches this archive of artistic interpretations of the world for future generations.

Rieckhallen Studio

The newly established Rieckhallen Studio is available long-term for workshops with groups and invites individual visitors as a free-access area. Its central location between special exhibitions and the collection presentation allows for direct engagement with the exhibited art. This makes education and outreach a visible and integral part of the museum's work

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directly within the exhibition space. A key focus of the new educational programs is offerings for schools, developed in partnership with the KUNSTFORUM Foundation of the Berliner Volksbank, Berlin, and now available for booking through the Museumsdienst Berlin (museumsdienst@kulturprojekte.berlin, www.museumsdienst.berlin).

The exhibition is curated by Sam Bardaouil, Director of Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, and Gabriele Knapstein, Deputy Director and Head of Collection, Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart.

The exhibition is supported by the Hamburger Bahnhof International Companions e.V.

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